

**Kelleigh Cosentino**  
Think Pink Society  
Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School

Statement To  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Health  
United States House of Representatives

Regarding  
H.R. 758, Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2007  
Wednesday, May 21, 2008, 11:00 a.m.  
Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building

My name is Kelleigh Cosentino and I am President of the Think Pink Society at Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School. On behalf of the 150 members of the Think Pink Society, I thank Chairman Pallone, Ranking Member Deal, and all the distinguished members of the Committee for the opportunity to submit our statement in strong support for H.R. 758, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act of 2007. The Think Pink Society is a student run breast cancer awareness organization that was founded in student run breast cancer awareness organization that was founded in 2003 by then Georgetown Visitation students, Sarah Stoycos who lost her mother to breast cancer and Jennifer McAndrew who lost her aunt to the disease. Since its formation the young women of Think Pink have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the eradication of breast cancer. Having endured the diagnosis and death of mothers, sisters, aunts, teachers, nuns, and friends from breast cancer, it is empowering for us to collectively work toward a change. When we heard about the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act three years ago, we immediately recognized its importance in supporting the dignity of our loved ones and their right to a minimum of forty-eight hours hospital stay after a mastectomy. We

believe we have a duty to remember that civil law must uphold moral law and the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act undoubtedly embodies this principal.

This bill is not just about the politics of drive-through mastectomies. No teenage girl should act as a surrogate caregiver to her siblings while her mother struggles with complicated tubing less than ten hours after surgery. No woman should suffer unnecessary infection, because she does not have the energy to replace the dressings wrapped around her breasts. No patient should be forced from a hospital against her doctor's judgment. Think Pink has witnessed these injustices and has worked to eliminate them.

Throughout its five years as an organization, Think Pink has raised over \$70,000 for breast cancer research through fundraisers and donations. We also organized the month long symbolic lighting of the roof of 1625 I St. NW D.C. a vibrant pink in October, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, to serve as a reminder of our cause. Hundreds of concerned citizens have signed our petition supporting the Breast Cancer Patient Protection act, and The Washington Post, Politico, and ABC 7 news have all recognized our objectives. Alongside actress Marcia Cross, breast cancer surgeons, and Lifetime officials, we've made our plea known: give the patient and doctor the right to choose. And still this is not enough.

Think Pink stands in strong support for H.R. 758 and respectfully asks Congress to pass the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act. We believe it is imperative that every breast cancer patient is offered the freedom to forty-eight hours in a hospital. While many patients will elect to return home to their families after surgery, it would give patients an important option, particularly for patients that do not have families or adequate home

environments to return to. Think Pink has come to understand and respect that breast cancer patients, rather than insurance companies, deserve to make this decision. Unlike so many other injustices in the world, this is one Congress has the ability to terminate.

The Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act was introduced over twelve years ago. It is time to make it a reality. As young women who aspire to become leaders in our own right, we look to you as our mentors and leaders today and respectfully request your support to end the delay in this bi-partisan legislation's long overdue implementation. We ask you to help us honor our mothers, sisters, aunts, daughters, and friends: by giving all breast cancer patients the protection and respect they deserve through the passage of H.R. 758, the Breast Cancer Patient Protection Act. The members and supporters of the Think Pink Society stand ready to assist you in any way possible to ensure the passage of this bill and look for your direction. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement.

Kelleigh Cosentino  
President  
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Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School